

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 26 and 28-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dube et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0056668 with citations to U.S. Pat. No. 6,843,376) in view of Kuhmonen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,248,042), Mclean (U.S. Pat. No. 2,055,630), Davis (U.S. Pat. No. 6,318,560) and Paladin (U.S. Pat. No. 6,986,425).

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Kumar for the consideration given applicant's attorney at the interview of September 7, 2010. At the interview, agreement was reached with respect to the claims that they are distinguished over the prior art of record. It was further agreed that, in the absence of more relevant prior art, the captioned application should be in condition for allowance.

In contrast to Dube et al. in the invention device a first screener is installed upstream from the feeding hopper. Consequently, material already pre-screened can be fed to the trommel screen. The advantages of the invention device over Dube et al. are obvious. While Dube et al. has to provide a first feeding hopper with a size adapted for the transfer of all fractions, the invention device is able to achieve better results with a much smaller transfer unit as only the pre-screened material has to be transferred.

With the first screener and the feeding hopper being combined into one single unit in the present invention, a compact construction of the entire device can be achieved. Besides, due to the fact that within the device no large-sized particles have to be transferred, all downstream transport appliances may have smaller dimensions. Furthermore, contrasting to Dube et al. one transport device may be omitted. These differences offer significant advantages with respect to energy savings of the device. Furthermore, these features contribute to the fact that a more compact and more affordable device can be provided.

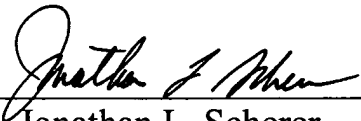
By defining the opposite ends of the disc screen with respect to the screening drum, the proximity of the disc screen is defined. The specific arrangement of the disc screen leads to a compact unit, distinct from Dube et al. as well as the other references relied upon in the Office Action.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: 
Jonathan L. Scherer
Reg. No. 29,851

400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666
Date: September 7, 2010
JCH/JLS:crj